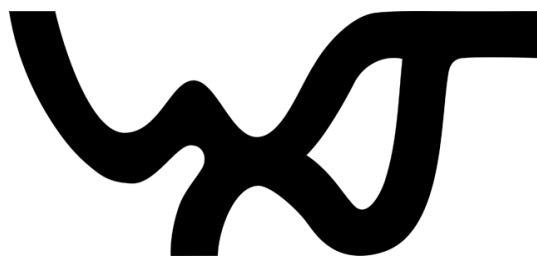




# Web Experience Toolkit (WET)



Paul Jackson

Government of Canada

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# About the presenter

- **Paul Jackson**
  - Project lead and one of the lead developers for the Web Experience Toolkit.
  - In 2009, established the framework for open collaborative development within the Government of Canada that evolved into the Web Experience Toolkit project.
  - Further built upon that success by leading the effort in 2012 to move the project to GitHub as a public open source project to enable collaboration across jurisdictions and private organizations.
  - Co-developed several standards for the Government of Canada including the Standards on Web Accessibility, Web Usability and Web Interoperability as well as the newly released Standard on Optimizing Websites and Applications for Mobile Devices.
- **Chief Information Officer Branch, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat**
  - Provides strategic direction and leadership government-wide for information management and information technology.
  - Responsible for policy development, monitoring, management oversight, and leading community development and capacity building initiatives to ensure the sound management and stewardship of information and technology assets and its communities of practice.

# Benefits - Accessible, usable and interoperable

- **Accessibility**

- Conforms to [WCAG 2.0](#) level AA
- Leverages [WAI-ARIA](#) to further enhance accessibility
- Assistive technology testing (Access Working Group)

- **Usability**

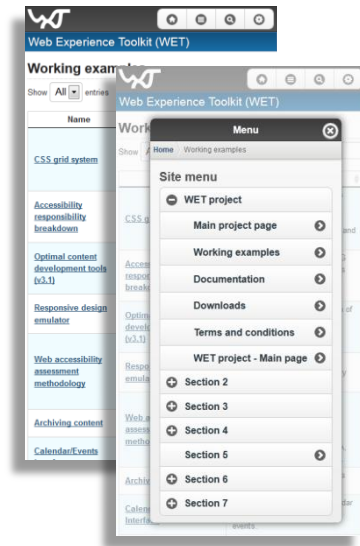
- Iterative approach to design
- Design patterns and usability testing (User Experience Working Group)

- **Interoperability**

- HTML5-first approach
  - Leveraging native HTML5 support
  - Filling support gaps with “polyfills”
- Supporting a wide variety of browsers (IE, Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Opera)
- Building support for HTML data (RDFa 1.1 Lite, Schema.org)

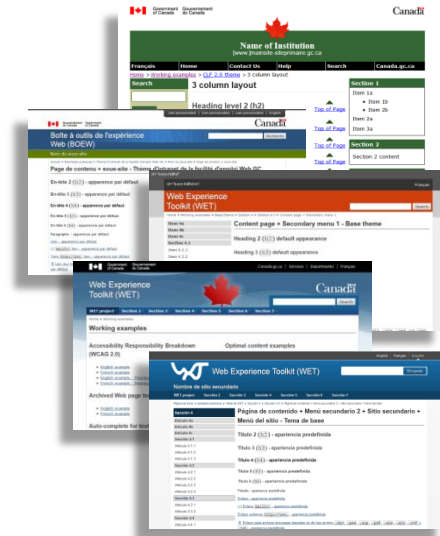
# Benefits – Mobile-friendly and multilingual

- **Mobile-friendly responsive design**
  - Adapts to different screen sizes and device capabilities
  - Touchscreen support (jQuery Mobile)
  - Optimized for performance
  - Building support for device-based mobile applications
- **Multilingual**
  - Currently supports 33 languages (including right-to-left languages)
    - English, French, Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Czech, Dutch, Estonian, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukranian, Vietnamese



# Benefits – Themeable and reusable

- **Themeable and reusable**
  - Flexible framework that supports custom themes
  - Includes a “Base” theme to use as a template
  - Currently includes support for 5 different themes
  - Reusable templates, plugins and widgets
  - Adapted to various CMS and programming frameworks
    - Drupal
    - WordPress
    - SharePoint (in development)
    - DotNetNuke (in development)
    - PHP
    - SSI
    - Java/Maven
- **Reduces costs by openly sharing and collaborating**
  - Drives down research and development costs
  - Avoids duplication of effort
  - Produces better quality results



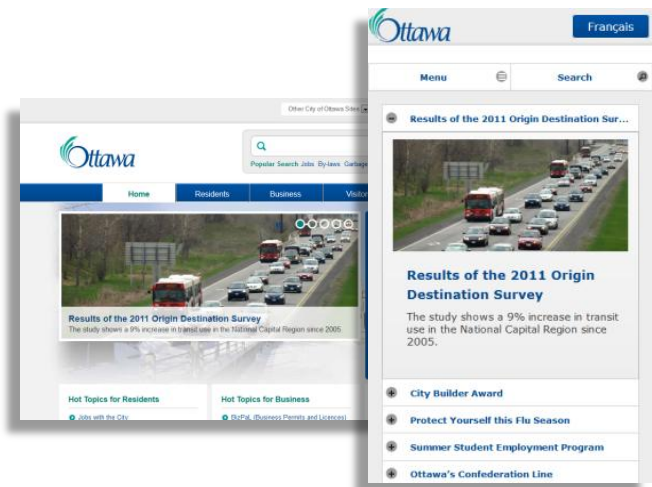


# Strong collaboration framework

- **Collaborative approach**
  - Project managed openly on GitHub, including discussion through the issues tracker
  - Encouraging a free flow of ideas, dialogue and innovation including sharing of challenges and ideas
  - External contributions welcome
    - Pull requests
    - Design patterns
    - Issues and suggestions
    - Documentation
    - Testing
  - Multi-level review process for contributions to ensure code integrity
    - Combination of automated and manual reviews

# Strong collaboration framework

- **Nearly 200 contributors**
  - Government of Canada
  - Canadian provinces and municipalities
  - Private sector
  - Academia
- **Five working groups**
  - Access Working Group
  - Quality Assurance Working Group
  - Technical Working Group
  - User Experience Working Group
  - Web Interoperability Working Group
- **Adoption**
  - Government of Canada
    - 45+ departments
    - 1.3 million Web pages
  - [City of Ottawa](#)
  - University of Ottawa and others



# Accolades

- Award winning



- Excellence in Public Service Delivery (2012)
  - Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC)
- People's Choice (2011)
  - Association of Public Sector Information Professionals (DPI)
- Share & Re-Use (2011)
  - Association of Public Sector Information Professionals (DPI)

- Positive press from [Wired](#), [Canadian Government Executive](#) and [numerous blogs](#)

- “produced something that’s pretty rare in government: a hit open source project”
  - McMillan, Robert. [Canadian Coders Solve Mystery of Open Source Government](#). Wired.com. 2013-01-13





# More Information on WET

- **GitHub**
  - [Main project page](#)
  - [Working examples](#)
  - [Documentation](#)
  - [Contributor guidelines](#)
  - [Terms and conditions](#)
- **Twitter**
  - @WebExpToolkit
  - [#WxT](#) is the English hashtag for WET